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Province kicking its porn habit

GOVERNMENT

Ontario aims to stop profiting from reviews of adult films

The government of Ontario is trying to make less from porn.

The Ontario Film Review Board, the province's movie classification agency, routinely brings in a $1.8-million annual profit, a substantial amount of that from the pornography industry, according to public records.

However, Government and Consumer Services Minister David Orazietti says he expects the OFRB's unintentional profitability to end through restructuring and the creation of the Ontario Film Authority.

The OFRB is an arm's-length agency responsible for classifying all films sold or exhibited within the province, including adult films, but it has a mandate to help the film industry, not profit from it.

So the looming reorganization as a delegated administrative authority is expected to include a review of the fee structure currently in place for all films.

The goal, Orazietti said, will be to make less money.

"We want to be operating in a way that is fair to the sector and fair to the industry and not overcharging the industry and not undercharging the industry and ensuring that we're recovering the cost of operations," he said.

Annual reports show the pornographic film industry is currently responsible for the majority of the agency's average annual profit of $1.8 million.

According the OFRB's online database, the review board screened an average of 20 pornographic films a day in 2013-14, generating a daily average of around $6,900 in classification fees.

Since 2005, the OFRB has conducted more than 47,632 film screenings that have generated almost $25 million in gross revenue; $11.4 million of that was in adult classification fees. After expenses, the non-profit agency has made a profit of $16 million, which has then been returned to the provincial treasury.

The OFRB makes its money by charging a flat classification fee of $4.20 for one minute of screen time. Foreign films are charged a fee of $78.75 per movie.

The restructuring of the board — which Orazietti hopes will be completed by the end of this year — is part of a larger provincial initiative to streamline more than 200 boards and commissions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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U.S. city leaders want sharing economy to grow. **Business**

Global voices of vertical life

FILM

Doc highlights the highrise's troubles and triumphs

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Katerina Cizek tells stories about storeys.

The Toronto filmmaker has spent the past seven years documenting highrises and the people who live in them.

The HIGHRISE project, produced by the National Film Board, has taken Cizek around the globe, but much of the series is set in Toronto.

"Toronto is one of the most vertical cities in the world," she said. "There are more highrises here than any other North American city other than Manhattan."

In particular, Cizek is interested in the concrete towers that dot the city's inner suburbs. Nearly 1,200 towers were built in the GTA between 1945 and 1985, she said, many of them in places like Scarborough and Etobicoke.

"They were envisioned as homes for the modern family. Think of the Jetsons," she said. "But that's not what happened. Very quickly, these buildings became almost warehouses for new Canadians."

Those immigrant communities feature prominently in Cizek's films. One documentary, One Millionth Tower, focuses on residents of 2667 Kipling Ave., in Etobicoke. Once a locus for the city's Haitian community, the building is now populated almost entirely by Christian Iraqis.

"From the outside, the building looks the same, but over the course of seven years, the people who live there have changed dramatically," she said.

Cizek's work also reveals how suburban highrise dwellers have been abandoned by both developers and the city. Their buildings are deteriorating and their neighbourhoods lack basic infrastructure like transit and grocery stores, Cizek said.

"We need to get back to thinking about how to connect these places to the rest of the city," she said. "We're neglecting the opportunity to include them in our lives."

That neglect coincides with the condo boom in downtown Toronto, Cizek said. She worries that skyrocketing condo prices and a looming affordable housing crisis could spell disaster for the city.

"One can't help but project into the future with what might happen with these condos. If you have a lot of empty buildings, because they're investment properties or people can't afford them, then those buildings could also become neglected and almost slum-like in the next 10 years," she said.

Katerina Cizek spent seven years documenting highrise living around the world, including Toronto. COURTESY NATIONAL FILM BOARD

> **We need to get back to thinking about how to connect these places to the rest of the city.**
> Katerina Cizek

UPS AND DOWNS

Katerina Cizek's work on the HIGHRISE project has taken her all over the globe and shown her both the highs and lows of vertical living.

The Good: Singapore
At more than 7,600 residents per square kilometre, Singapore is the third densest city in the world. The city may have built up out of necessity, but Cizek says that intensification has been done with proper planning.

"It's a wonderful example of highrises that get it right," she said. "Everything is integrated and the transportation is there."

The bad: Mumbai
Cizek cites the Indian capital as an example of how highrise development can exaggerate social and economic inequality. She said local officials have been known to collude with developers, allowing them to build, sell and ultimately demolish illegal towers. The victims are poorer residents, many of whom scraped together their life savings as a down payment.

"The poor people lose everything, while the wealthy people make everything," she said.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

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EDUCATION

Sex-ed vote causes fracas in Halton

Police were called to Halton's Catholic board after a motion seeking to delay teaching Ontario's new sex-ed curriculum failed, sparking conflict among a large crowd gathered in the foyer.

The fracas occurred just days before another large rally is planned at Queen's Park — this Sunday — to protest the new health and physical education lessons, which are the first update to sex-ed in this province in more than two decades.

"There were a couple of altercations, people saying things to one another — there were some passionate people in the boardroom" but overall the debate was "very respectful," said Jane Michael, chair of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

"It was outside the boardroom where things got a bit heated."

More than 100 people were packed into the foyer after seats in the public gallery filled. Witnesses said they heard people screaming references to teaching young children about gay sex, and at one point one person spat in another person's face. That's when police were called. Confrontations later spilled outside, but no charges were laid.

The motion, by Oakville Trustee Anthony Danko, said more than 100,000 Ontarians have signed petitions against the new curriculum.

His motion said the curriculum violates Catholic teachings as it refers to masturbation as "pleasurable" and "not harmful," and "promotes anal and oral sex at an inappropriate age."

Michael expected to cast the tie-breaking vote and sought legal and spiritual advice before Tuesday night's meeting, where the motion died in a 5-4 vote.

Meanwhile, given the ongoing controversy among some religious and parent groups, the Ontario government has launched a $1.8 million advertising campaign to explain the program.

TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

WILDLIFE

Peacock returns to High Park Zoo

Toronto's missing peacock is finally back home.

The bird found its way back to the High Park Zoo overnight Tuesday and was spotted in a bison pen just after 8 a.m. Wednesday. Staff were working to get the animal back into the aviary enclosure.

"That will allow him to come back in with the other peacocks, the pea hens, and just have sort of quiet time," said Sarah Doucette, who sits on the board for the Friends of the High Park Zoo.

"He can then go into the bird area, the barn area if he wants to go inside. And just sort of regroup, recoup and get his bearings again."

City of Toronto
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High Park Zoo's peacock is home, safe and sound. TWITTER

The peacock dashed for freedom late last week, with photos and videos of its run through the city captured on social media.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beyography classes soar in popularity

MUSIC

Dancers learn new Beyoncé choreography every week

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Nicky Nasrallah's dance class used to be a well-kept secret.

But now it's out, and everyone, it seems, wants in on his weekly lessons on anything and everything Beyoncé.

"Everybody wants to be Beyoncé," Nasrallah said. "She's the picture of perfection."

Nasrallah has been teaching his two-hour Beyography class at Elevation Dancentre Studio on Wednesday afternoons for more than a year. A couple of recent blog posts about the class, where he teaches the choreography used in the singer's videos and shows, have opened the floodgates.

He went from about 30 regular dancers, to having more than 1,000 RSVPs on the class Facebook event page. This week, he enlisted the help of an assistant to open a second classroom to accommodate the overflow of new dancers.

Nasrallah will start offering new evening and weekend Beyography classes soon.

It's all because of Bey, Nasrallah said.

"She's like fun, she's cool, she's sexy. She is so versatile," he said. "All of her songs take on a brand new image. There's like, sexy Beyoncé from Dance for You, and hard Beyoncé from Flawless, and classic Beyoncé from Crazy in Love, and African-style from Grown Woman.

Nicky Nasrallah teaches a sold-out class the choreography to Beyonce's Ego on Wednesday at Elevation Dancentre Studio at Bloor and Dovercourt. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

"Everybody sees a light in her they want to take on themselves."

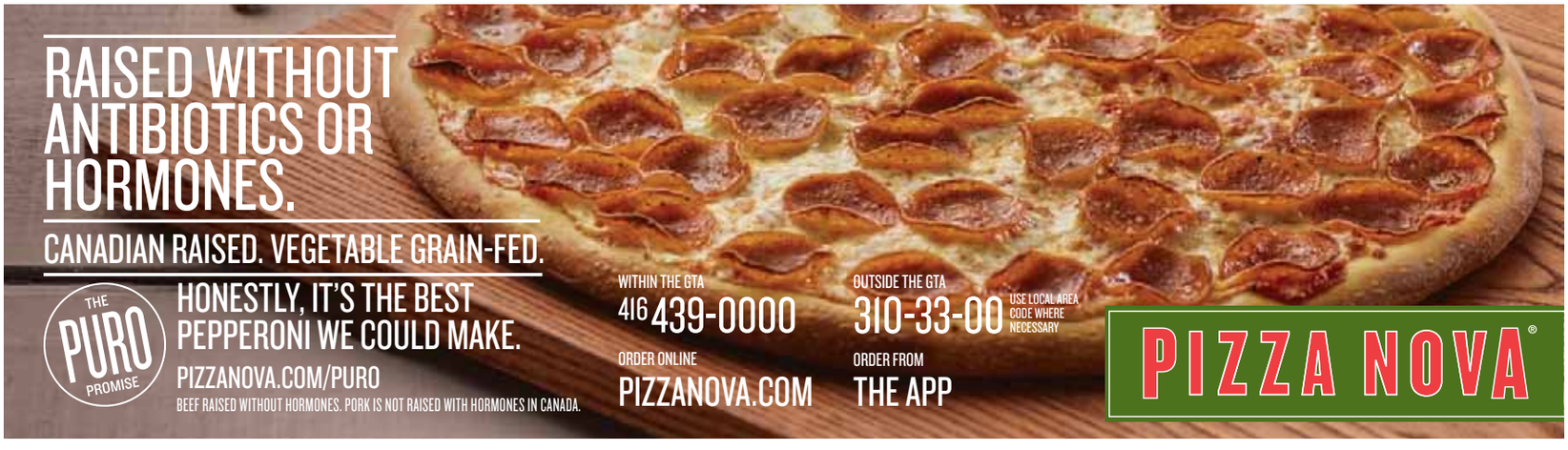
Each week focuses on dancing to a specific song. This week was Ego, which Nasrallah described as "sexy."

"It's a lot of hips, sexy movements, squats."

In the classroom, Nasrallah took the dancers, mostly women and a few men, through the slow opening bars of the song during which Bey's hands trace her body and her hips pop back and forth.

Everyone pretty much got it spot on, but their super seriously sexy faces melted away into smiles every time the music stopped.

"I just love Beyoncé so much," Nasrallah said. "I want everybody to be a part of this."



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6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW WATERFRONT

Three years after construction began, Waterfront Toronto officially opens its $130 million Queens Quay makeover on June 19. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Street furniture

Twenty-two backless benches made of red cast aluminum and ipe wood slats are designed for back-to-back seating and create an informal barrier between the pedestrian area and cyclists. Twenty white cedar glulam poles are mounted with clean-lined signature street lamps.

2 Streetcars

Running in both directions south of the single east-west car lanes, the streetcar tracks sit 12.5-cm higher than the road. Rubber under the tracks, while not unique, reduces the rumble of TTC vehicles.

3 Sidewalks

Pedestrians will walk on about 3 million granite pavers made of three types of Quebec stone. A rough finish prevents the stone from becoming too slippery.

4 Intersections

There are 10 signal intersections, including three new ones at Queens Quay Terminal, Robertson Cres., and Yo-Yo Ma Lane. Zebra stripes indicate pedestrian crossings

5 Lay-bys

There are 12 lay-bys of varying lengths built into the Queens Quay design. These no-parking facilities accommodate up to 14 motor coaches for tourist drop-offs and are also used for taxis, deliveries, loading and hop-on-hop-off bus tours.

6 Bikes

The black asphalt ribbon on the south of the streetcar tracks has separate cycling traffic signals. A painted blue box tells cyclists where to stop in advance of intersections.

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Toronto real estate prices getting real

MARKET ANALYSIS

Bidding wars, bully bids are causing prices to catapult

$1.15 million.

That's the new average price for a detached house in Toronto — up 18.2 per cent in the last year.

The Toronto Real Estate Board released the number Wednesday, again showing that listings are lagging so far behind demand that bidding wars and bully bids are causing prices to catapult.

Sales of detached houses were down six per cent in May, largely because there aren't enough on the market and, those that are, are well out of reach for most buyers. The majority of homes sold were in Toronto's east end where the average price was $755,258.

"With no relief so far on the listings front, expect similar rates of price growth as we move through the remainder of 2015," Jason Mercer, the real estate board's senior market analyst, said in a statement. "At this point, a number of months where listings growth outstrips sales growth would be required to satisfy pent-up demand."

More listings aren't likely in a market where baby boomers are largely staying put and opting to renovate as their children are moving into their prime home-buying years. Their impact continues to be felt in the condo market — the only realistic housing choice left for most young buyers in the hot market.

$422K

Last month, the average condo price tag was $422,947 — up 5.5 per cent.

Sales of condos surged almost 13 per cent in the city last month, defying the skeptics who continue to voice concerns that too many units are being built.

The average condo price tag was $422,947 — up 5.5 per cent — in the 416 region.

Sales of detached homes were up just three per cent in May across the GTA, with a 6.4 per cent increase in the 905 regions countered by a 6 per cent decline in single home sales in the 416 region, again, largely because of supply and affordability. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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AGO SPORT-INSPIRED ART Revered NYC graffiti artist Stash visited Toronto Wednesday to mark the debut of his custom road bike being displayed in the window of the AGO. The bike will retail for $30,000 as part of a shopAGO exclusive. Another bike designed by Stash, which will be displayed in the store, will also be on sale for a cool $140,000. The bikes are part of a collection of apparel, accessories, prints and décor available at shopAGO this summer that focus on sport-inspired art. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

IN BRIEF

Ontario to get 15 new electoral ridings

Ontario will get 15 additional members of the provincial legislature after the 2018 election because of its growing population.

Government sources say Premier Kathleen Wynne will announce plans Thursday to match federal riding boundary changes, except in northern Ontario where the Liberals want to maintain one additional provincial seat.

The Liberals say they want to make sure the "unique needs of the north" are protected with one more elected provincial representative than at the federal level.

The number of Ontario ridings — and MPPs — will grow from 107 to 122, while federally there will be 121 ridings in the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Gardiner challenge

Toronto City Council will decide the future of the eastern Gardiner Expressway at a meeting that begins June 10. A lot of money and the shape of the city's waterfront are at stake. While many people have expressed opinions on the expressway, the facts can be overwhelming and hard to find. **Test your knowledge.**

JESSICA SMITH CROSS METRO

1 WHAT PART OF THE EXPRESSWAY IS BEING DEBATED?

A. The Western Gardiner, West of Spadina
B. The Western Gardiner, West of Yonge
C. The Eastern Gardiner, East of Jarvis
D. The Eastern Gardiner, East of Yonge

2 IDENTIFY IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

A. Current alignment, Boulevard, Remove
B. Current alignment, Hybrid, Maintain
C. Current alignment, Boulevard, Hybrid
D. Current alignment, Hybrid, Boulevard

3 ACCORDING TO A 2011 STUDY, HOW MANY COMMUTERS HEADING DOWNTOWN IN THE A.M. USE THE EASTERN GARDINER?

A. 3%, or 5,200 people
B. 13%, or 22,500 people
C. 23%, or 39,9000 people
D. 33%, or 57,200 people

4 WHAT'S TRUE OF THE BOULEVARD OPTION?

A. It replaces two lanes of traffic with an LRT.
B. It will connect directly with the Don Valley Parkway.
C. It would have eight lanes of vehicular traffic.
D. It would have 10 lanes of vehicular traffic.

CRUNCH TIME FOR GARDINER

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

5 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OF THE HYBRID OPTION?

A. It includes a multi-use pathway along Lakeshore Boulevard, as well as some pedestrian and intersection improvements.
B. It's the only option that will allow the development of the former Unilever site by First Gulf.
C. It would keep the Expressway mostly the same as it is now.
D. It would move the Gardiner Express north, above the rail tracks.

6 ACCORDING TO THE CITY, WHAT IS THE COST, IN 2013 DOLLARS, OVER THE 100-YEAR LIFE CYCLE OF EACH OPTION?

A. Hybrid: $30M, Boulevard: $21.1M
B. Hybrid: $450M, Boulevard: $400M
C. Hybrid: $1.51B, Boulevard: $1.2B
D. Hybrid: $919M, Boulevard: $461M

7 THE CITY SAYS DRIVERS IN 2031 WOULD SAVE THIS MUCH TIME WITH THE HYBRID OPTION OVER THE BOULEVARD OPTION

A. 2-3 minutes
B. 5-7 minutes
C. 10-15 minutes
D. 20-30 minutes

8 WHO HAS SUPPORTED THE HYBRID OPTION?

A. Mayor John Tory
B. Rob Ford
C. Budget chief Gary Crawford
D. Chief planner Jennifer Keesmaat
E. Former Toronto chief planner Paul Bedford

9 WHO SAID THE "REAL PEOPLE" OF TORONTO DON'T WANT TO TEAR THE GARDINER DOWN?

A. Mayor John Tory
B. Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell
C. Coun. Rob Ford
D. Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong

10 WHEN'S THE EARLIEST CONSTRUCTION WOULD BEGIN IF A DECISION IS MADE JUNE 10?

A. 2017
B. 2019
C. 2012
D. 2025

Survey confirms deadlock on Gardiner's future

Mayor John Tory does not have a lock on city council voting to maintain and rebuild the east Gardiner Expressway, despite a big public push and intense lobbying of his council colleagues ahead of next week's vote.

A Torstar News Service survey of councillors finds them virtually deadlocked as they are lobbied by Tory staffers going office to office and competing councillors who want to replace the Gardiner with a waterfront boulevard.

"It's quite a battlefield up here on the second floor of city hall, with 45 council members and their staff trying to convince each other," said Coun. Gord Perks, a leading proponent of the boulevard option.

"I don't think either side has yet achieved a majority."

Council is expected to choose either the "hybrid option" — maintaining the elevated link to the Don Valley Parkway, removing the ramps to Logan Ave. and building new ramps at Cherry St. — or full removal and replacement with an eight-lane boulevard that changes to six lanes east of the Don River.

18
Approximate number of councillors supporting hybrid plan

Hybrid proponents are warning of major commuter delays if the expressway comes down, and say their plan still opens waterfront land for development.

Boulevard fans say traffic concerns are overblown, that their option frees up more land and is cheaper by $96 million in short-term capital costs and $458 million when you factor in 100-year maintenance.

The vote will be the first big test of Tory's mayoralty. He stepped out early to back a hybrid option he says is vital to limiting increases in commute times.

9
Number of undecided or undisclosed votes

It would be unusual and embarrassing for a popular mayor early in his mandate to spend so much political capital and lose a big vote, and would spell the end of his honeymoon period in the post-Rob Ford era.

Councillors Paul Ainslie and Mary-Margaret McMahon, both members of Tory's hand-picked executive, are committed to removing the Gardiner. Coun. Ana Bailao, who also sits on executive, is "reviewing" all available information but is "leaning" towards the boulevard option.

18
Approximate number supporting a boulevard plan

After a press conference organized by Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell saw former mayor David Crombie and other Tory-friendly notables strongly back the boulevard, its proponents have been trying to woo council fence-sitters and centrist voices.

Since then, industry groups including the Ontario Trucking Association and CAA South Central Ontario have responded by launching a pro-hybrid campaign.

Coun. Jaye Robinson, the public works chair, has said gridlock is her prime concern. However, sources say, she is listening to arguments from boulevard proponents.

Of fence-sitters, six are executive members who could be expected to fall in line.

Coun. Rob Ford is the only one publicly backing the option of maintaining the Gardiner as it is. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANSWERS

1.C, 2.C, 3.A, 4.CD, 5.AC, 6.D, 7.A, 8.AC, 9.D, 10.B

9-10 **Expert:** You've read the staff reports, watched council debate and probably engaged in some Twitter flame wars over this.

7-8 **Informed:** You care and you've been paying attention but there's a limit.

5-6 **Semi-informed:** You have a passing knowledge of the Expressway, but the key facts have passed you by.

0-4 **Failure:** Does a Gardiner contain roses?

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STORE REPRESENTATIVE - BOWMANVILLE, ON

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Are you ROM or AGO?

The Royal Ontario Museum and Art Gallery of Ontario host hot-ticket parties. Which one is right for you?

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The First Thursday party at the AGO.
COURTESY THE ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO

THE DRAW

ROM
At Friday Night Live, party-goers get into playrooms, sweeping sand for fossils and trying on shining armour.

AGO
First Thursdays are about loud bands, DJs and interactive performance art. Think emerging local talent as well as big names like Patti Smith and Ai Weiwei.

THE CROWD

ROM
Picture career-track students with boyfriends who drive European cars. People are prim yet like their fun.

AGO
Arty-looking students and hipsters with salaries dominate this crowd.

GETTING IN

ROM
Eight parties are held on Fridays each spring and fall. Tickets are $15 (cheaper for students) but free for members.

AGO
Parties are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for August and January. Tickets are $15 at the door (cheaper for members) but usually sell out in advance.

DISASTER FACTOR

ROM
It's a pretty proper crowd, but not above kissing in dark corners. A few areas are off limits with drinks.

AGO
Many rooms are booze-free and plenty of security is on hand to keep you from enhancing artwork with your drink.

THE VERDICT

ROM
Friday Night Live feels like a Richmond Street-clubbing pre-game show for the stylish and fit. But unlike the clubs, this scene is grime-free, and instead of groping, booze fuels childish wonder.

If you like thumping Top 40, dig hieroglyphics and flash Yorkville style, this is where you want to be.

AGO
A First Thursday is like Saturday night bar-hopping at Dundas Street West and Ossington Avenue in downtown Toronto.

It's a crowded, music-driven party for the trendy, strange and curious, though the gallery's best works can't be contemplated with a drink.

If you listen to indie, dig graffiti and slide into skinny jeans, this is where you want to be.

Party time at the ROM.
DANIEL OTIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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City a hotbed of Caribbean talent

MUSIC

Reggae legend Jay Douglas' project on bill at Field Trip

BACKSTAGE PASS

Ian Gormley

Field Trip, the annual music and art celebration organized by local indie label Arts & Crafts, offers a contemporary snapshot of the city's music scene. But conversations around local music often cut the city's Caribbean musicians out of the narrative.

"Some of that has to do with proper management for the artists," explained local reggae legend Jay Douglas. "But it's changing."

So it is particularly encouraging to see the inclusion of Douglas' Jamaica to Toronto project on Saturday's bill.

Douglas is a 40-year fixture of Toronto's reggae community, starting with the Cougars in 1966. They disbanded in the early '70s, after which Douglas forged a successful solo career.

Ten years ago, a group of crate diggers on the West Coast stumbled onto Toronto's potent late '60s, early '70s scene after discovering the Wayne McGhie instrumental, Dirty Funk.

"The hip-hop kids got a hold of it," says Douglas. "They wanted to reproduce it so they had to find us."

Seattle's Light in the Attic Records assembled the compilation Jamaica to Toronto.

For many in the city's Caribbean community, it articulated something that was already well known: the city was a hotbed of talent. For others, it put a spotlight on something that had been right under their noses.

The Cougars appear twice on the compilation and Douglas reunited with drummer Everton "Pablo" Paul for the record's release party at Harbourfront. The duo continue to perform under the Jamaica to Toronto banner, adding singer Jackie Richardson to the mix. They play Cougars' tunes, tracks from the compilation and Douglas's solo material. Fans can also expect a rendition of the scene's Rosetta Stone, Dirty Funk.

"It's about truth," said Douglas. "Where the music is coming from, the early people from the islands that came here. Now it's accepted all over the world."

IF YOU GO

Field Trip runs Saturday and Sunday at Fort York and Garrison Common. See fieldtriplife.com for details.

Jay Douglas performs with Jamaica to Toronto Saturday.
CONTRIBUTED

PERFORMERS

Five reasons to show up early to Field Trip

De La Soul: Saturday at 5:10 p.m., Garrison Stage. These golden age hip-hop legends are the weekend's lone rap act.

Lee Fields & the Expressions: Sunday at 3:05 p.m., Garrison Stage. The soul singer backed legends but finally found success on his own.

Kevin Drew & Andy Kim: Sunday at 3 p.m., TD Day Camp Stage. The Broken Social Scene co-founder teams up with the man behind Sugar, Sugar, for a mini-set for the kids.

Absolutely Free: Sunday at 2 p.m., Garrison Stage. These spacey locals perform tracks from last year's excellent self-titled debut.

Sharon & Bram: Saturday at 3:10 p.m., TD Fort York Stage. The beloved children's performers make a rare appearance sharing the stage with more "adult" oriented artists.

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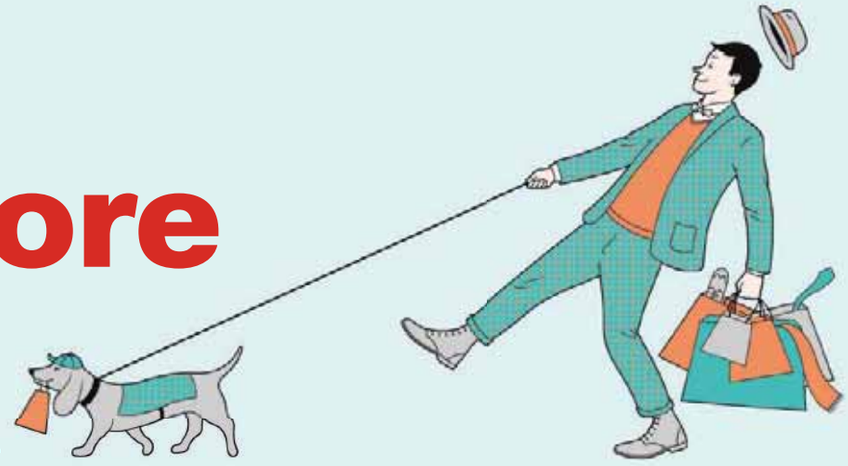

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Reconciliation must be a priority: Sinclair

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Parliament talk focuses on duty to act

Prime Minister Stephen Harper listened in silence Wednesday as the head of an exhaustive study of residential schools and their dark legacy urged all levels of government to make reconciliation and healing a top priority.

The results of that study demand a political response, said Justice Murray Sinclair, the chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was established in 2007 to document the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.

Harper and Sinclair were among a large gathering of politicians, commissioners, residential-school survivors and members of the aboriginal community who gathered at Rideau Hall to formally close the commission's work. Neither Harper, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt nor Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq spoke at the event.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper hugs Elder Evelyn Commanda-Dewache, a residential-school survivor, during the closing ceremony of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"The nearly 7,000 people who shared and recorded their experiences and reflections with us have talked about the connections between their residential-school experiences and many things that remain," Sinclair said.

It's the commission's responsibility to share these stories, he continued.

A summary of the commission's findings, which concluded that Canada's residential-school era constituted "cultural genocide," was released Tuesday. Along with it came 94 extensive recommendations that amounted to a comprehensive overhaul of the Crown's relationship with Aboriginal Peoples.

Since then, the daily question period has been dominated by debate about the extent of the government's duty to act on those recommendations — one of which was to adopt the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

And for a second straight day, the government refused to acknowledge the commission's use of the phrase "cultural genocide," despite prodding from the opposition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAMPAIGN

Mulcair to promise more funds for cities

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair is promising to give Canadian cities dramatically more federal funding to pay for urban infrastructure, a big-ticket pledge that would help fuel Toronto's transit expansion, Torstar News Service has learned.

Mulcair is expected to make the promise Saturday when he speaks to municipal leaders gathered in Edmonton at the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The NDP is proposing to start by giving cities an extra cent of the federal gas tax, which would mean an extra $420 million a year.

They are vowing to boost funding by $1.5 billion by the end of their first term, meaning a total of $3.7 billion a year dedicated to "core infrastructure," according to a draft NDP document. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STRATEGY

Mulcair is expected to use the keynote address to reveal a public transit strategy, as well as a plan for more affordable housing.

IN BRIEF

Canada 'ill-prepared' to deal with terror attacks: OPP report

As Michael Zehaf Bibeau ran toward the Centre Block on Oct. 22, the RCMP had more than one chance to stop him.

Yet the events from last October remain a "grim reminder that Canada is ill-prepared" to stop terrorist attacks, with the RCMP suffering a lack of "planning, training and resources" to protect the Parliament buildings, an Ontario Provincial Police report says. The report says the RCMP's ability to protect Parliament Hill has been stretched by resource issues stemming from budget cuts imposed in 2012 by the Conservative government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Moms take on recruiters

EXTREMISM

Berlin-based group targets radicalized children

A group of Western mothers whose children have joined the Islamic State and other extremists in Syria and Iraq appealed Wednesday for them to return home, quoting from the Qur'an. The group has Muslim and non-Muslim members from seven countries including Canada, France and the United States.

In an open letter posted on social media websites, members of Berlin-based Mothers for Life called on their sons and daughters to recall that Islam requires them to honour their parents and spare them suffering.

"Even if you think death will give you that 'better' life, remember that even the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said: 'Paradise lies at the feet of your mother,"' the letter said. "By leaving us against our will to give up your own life and take those of others, you have put our struggle, pain and honour under your feet and walked over it."

Thousands of young Western men and women have joined the Islamic State militants in recent years after being recruited by other extremists, often operating online. Mothers for Life said their decision to launch the appeal on social media is part of an effort to publicly challenge those who have lured their children away.

"Social media right now seems to be their strength in recruiting our youth," said Calgary mother Christianne Boudreau, whose 22-year-old son Damian Clairmont was killed in Syria last year. "We've got to fight fire with fire," she said in a telephone interview.

> **Paradise lies at the feet of your mother.**
> Mothers for Life letter

Christianne Boudreau's son Damian Clairmont died in Syria in 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CONTRIBUTED

Boudreau has said her son was actively recruited by people in Calgary. He converted to Islam as a teen and reportedly died in heavy fighting in the city of Aleppo last winter.

Mothers for Life also wants to help other families struggling to bring their children home, and highlight the need for politicians and security officials to take the parents of foreign fighters seriously. The group, run by the German Institute on Radicalization and Deradicalization Studies (GIRDS), has sought advice from Islamic scholars to challenge extremists' religious arguments.

Mothers for Life website: *http://www.girds.org/projects/mothers-for-life-network*

Mothers for Life on Facebook: *http://www.facebook.com/mothersandlife*

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anthrax scare growing

The U.S. military is struggling to tally up the number of live anthrax samples it might inadvertently have shipped out to research labs over the years, including possibly to Canada.

It will take days to account for all the erroneously mailed batches, the military said at a news conference Wednesday, as the scope of the apparent error has mushroomed.

"We will find more labs, we will find more lots," said Cmdr. Franca Jones, director of the U.S. military's chemical and biological defence programs.

In the week since the military acknowledged the error, the number of cases has surged to 51 labs in 17 states as well as Canada, Australia and South Korea.

At-risk batches were linked to three kits sent to Canada: one to Winnipeg's National Microbiology Laboratory and two sent in 2007 to a research facility in Suffield, Alta. No reports of illness have been linked to the shipments in Canada.

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$10M payment was not a bribe: Sports minister

SOUTH AFRICA

Fikile Mbalula says money was for soccer development

South Africa's sports minister "categorically" denied on Wednesday that the $10 million paid to former FIFA official Jack Warner in 2008 was a bribe for his help in securing the World Cup.

Fikile Mbalula, however, said he couldn't say what Warner did with the money, which South Africa claims was "above board" and meant for soccer development in the Caribbean region.

What happened to the cash is "another story for investigators.... We don't know," Mbalula said. "We can't account for that."

Mbalula repeated the South African government's denials that the country paid bribes to win the right to host the 2010 tournament, as alleged in indictments from the U.S. Department of Justice. South Africa's government — and former president Thabo Mbeki — first denied any wrongdoing in the bid process last week.

The Justice Department believes that $10 million was sent by South Africa, through FIFA, to Warner in three wire transfers in 2008 as payback for him and two other then-FIFA executive committee members for backing South Africa in the 2004 vote. South Africa won the World Cup by four votes over Morocco, making the ballots of Warner and his two "co-conspirators" decisive.

Mbalula characterized the $10 million as an "above board payment" to help the game in the Caribbean.

Mbalula also insisted that the South African government had not contradicted itself after the emergence of a leaked letter from then-South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant in 2008 asking FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke to send the $10 million to Warner from South Africa's World Cup funds.

South Africa's sports minister Fikile Mbalula speaks during a news conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Wednesday. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oliphant twice specified in the letter that the implicated Warner be in control of the money.

"The letter leaked to the media; we don't know why it was leaked in the first place because that correspondence was above board," Mbalula said, denying it suggested a bribe was paid. "Criminals can explain a bribe very well. I don't know how bribes work."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, SPORTS PAGE 36

CAPSIZED SHIP

China searches for 410 missing in river

Chinese authorities deployed scores more divers and a large crane as they escalated efforts Wednesday to recover more than 410 people believed to be trapped inside an overturned river cruise ship.

The capsizing late Monday of the multi-decked Eastern Star in the Yangtze River is on track to become the country's deadliest maritime disaster in seven decades. Chinese authorities have launched a high-profile response while tightly controlling media coverage. Premier Li Keqiang, the country's No. 2 political leader, has travelled to the disaster site in the Hubei province county of Jianli, where he urged "all-out," 24-7 efforts.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the bodies of 26 victims have been pulled from the boat. Fourteen people survived, some of them by swimming ashore and three by being pulled out of the ship by rescuers on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Boston terror suspect not shot in back: Leaders

A leader of Boston's African-American community said Wednesday that a police video of the fatal shooting of a terror suspect makes clear he "was not shot in the back."

Darnell Williams, head of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, said after viewing the video that he could "150 per cent corroborate" the police account of how the officers engaged with Usaama Rahim.

Boston Police Commissioner William Evans said officers confronted him because "military and law-enforcement lives were at threat."

Rahim had talked with another suspect about "committing beheadings" and "harming police officers," a law-enforcement official familiar with the investigation said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. city leaders keen on sharing economy

PEER-TO-PEER SERVICES

But two-thirds are worried about safety, survey finds

American cities are enticed by the economic growth and services that "sharing economy" companies such as Airbnb, Uber and Lyft can offer, but officials are anxious about safety in a largely unregulated realm, a city advocacy group found in a study released Wednesday.

Nearly three-quarters of city leaders said they want to see the "sharing" sector grow, according to National League of Cities survey responses from 245 leaders of municipalities large and small.

Yet nearly two-thirds said they were concerned about the safety of using apps and websites that let everyday people rent out rooms, arrange car rides and provide other services to strangers.

While 71 per cent of cities said they supported sharing-economy growth, leaders embrace ride-hailing apps more readily than short-term home rentals, by 66 per cent to 44 per cent. In general, cities see the biggest benefits as improved services and economic expansion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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While the traditional taxi industry opposes ride-share companies, most of the 245 U.S. city leaders polled said they want to see the "sharing economy" grow. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Did I mention an inspiring ceremony and more than a few solemn commitments followed the (1996) Erasmus-Dussault report? To look at this week's headlines and the fresh start they allude to is to take a trip back in time.

Underwhelmed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's noncommittal response to the remedial prescriptions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission? Consider this: When Jean Chrétien was handed a similarly devastating royal commission report, it took him a year to respond with a formal apology for the mistreatment of Canada's aboriginal peoples.

It was another seven years before the ruling Liberals put together a comprehensive action plan.

Set up in the dying days of Brian Mulroney's tenure, the royal commission headed by George Erasmus and René Dussault spent five years on the report it handed the Chrétien government in 1996.

At 4,000 pages, it set a royal commission record as the most voluminous of its kind.

There were suggestions this week that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — with 94 recommendations — has taken on more than anyone could chew. But Erasmus and Dussault had 400 recommendations.

As a measure of progress, the lesser number of prescriptions of this week's commission report is a red herring. The two commissions came at the issue from different angles and there were 20 years between them, but their core findings are depressingly similar.

Did I mention that an inspiring ceremony and more than a few solemn commitments marked the politically well-attended publication of the Erasmus-Dussault report? To look at this week's headlines and the fresh start they allude to is to take a trip back in time.

The fiscal climate was not auspicious for the 20-year plan the Dussault-Erasmus commission put forward in 1996. The federal budget was still awash in red ink. The report came a year after the Quebec referendum, at a time when the Chrétien government had its hands full with the unity file.

It was almost another decade before the federal government under Paul Martin teamed up with the provinces and the aboriginal leadership to come up with a comprehensive response.

By that time, Canada has raked in budget surpluses for a number of years. Among other things, the ruling Liberals delivered tax cuts for all, a new child benefit for families, a major reinvestment in health care and seed money for a national child-care initiative before they turned their attention to the aboriginal file and the 2005 negotiation of the Kelowna Accord.

At that point, they were on their last legs in power. Martin's minority government took the Kelowna Accord to its opposition grave a few months later.

All comparisons have limitations, but the repeat false starts on the aboriginal front — which also include at least two failed constitutional attempts — stand in sharp contrast with the energy marshalled on other Canadian game-changing policies.

Take Canada's transition to linguistic duality.

Alarmed by the rise of Quebec nationalism, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson set up the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism in 1963.

In an interim report published in two years later, it drew a less than flattering portrait of the country's linguistic landscape and the second-class status of the French language and those who spoke it in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada.

By the time of its official report in 1969, Parliament was already moving forward with the Official Languages Act. Ontario had set out to expand its French-language school system. The first French immersion schools were about to open.

Or take, on another front, the social policy revolution that was the introduction of a national medicare system in the 1960s. It took about a decade for Canada to implement it in every province.

As comprehensive as the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission may be, is anyone really arguing that their implementation would require more heavy lifting than that involved in putting French on a more equal footing with English within Canada's institutions and education systems?

Their price tag pales in comparison with the start-up cost of a coast-to-coast-to-coast universal healthcare system.

This is a federation that has largely managed to talk its way out of serious unity challenges and come up with an intercultural model that, while not perfect, works better than most.

But at the same time, inertia has increasingly become the default response of governments to both emerging and enduring challenges.

And that begs one question: When did Canada lose the political will to change its ways?

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Turning off the tap

Californians cut their water use **13.5 per cent** in April compared to the same month in 2013 — impressive, but short of the target of up to **36 per cent** in some communities. By law, businesses, farms and families are all watching their water waste. Mandatory restrictions are in place to help the state get through the worst drought in its history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The Briefcase is a twisted new low for reality television

"What would you do if $101,000 landed on your doorstep?"

That, in a honey-toned voice-over, is the premise of a new reality TV series that makes me want to puke.

The Briefcase exploits families in financial hardship by offering them money, and then forcing them to choose whether to be generous and give the cash to others who are also struggling.

"They'll learn it's not the money, but the journey that will teach them what they value most," the voice-over intones.

What a twisted new low for reality TV.

Disclaimer: I don't like watching obese British teens hunt in a Borneo jungle (Can Fat Teens Hunt?) or Swedes navigate life without democracy (Dictator).

But I get that many people do. Reality TV shows were three of the top five programs watched in Canada in late May, according to Numeris. That's despite a ratings dip in the U.S., where slick dramas are pulling in top advertising dollars.

"Reality TV isn't going anywhere," Stuart Coxe, a reality TV producer and owner of Antica Productions, told me, "mostly because people watch it."

That's true for The Briefcase, which drew 6.87 million viewers to its premiere last week, according to AdWeek.

"Like it or not, there's some entertainment value," said AdWeek editor Lisa Granatstein.

I definitely do not like it.

But this isn't a hate-on for all reality TV. I don't, as Coxe describes the non-viewers, "assume it's an incredibly vulgar, demeaning thing that's corroding our culture."

"(It) actually deals with a lot more facets of the modern condition more quickly than scripted (TV) can," he argues.

The most popular shows also "play up the dignity of ordinary people and have more of a redemptive narrative," he said.

The Briefcase is certainly angling for redemption, mixing sentimental guitar riffs under people crying at the thought of financial stability. But it won't work.

Reality shows create a moral universe, Coxe noted, and the Briefcase's universe is way off.

In it, poverty's ills aren't alleviated by health care, jobs or housing — but by a generous heart. In it, the only truly good people are the monk-like selfless poor.

That is crazy, especially since CBS, which makes the show, took in $13.81 billion in revenue last year.

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Cameron Crowe apologizes for casting Emma Stone as part-Asian character in Aloha

The casual revolution

It's fashionable to be comfortable ... call it 'comfortcore'

EVA LAM/METRO

Who says you have to suffer for fashion? "Comfort" is the buzzword in style these days — comfortcore, if you will — as more and more women choose to kick up (and off) their heels in oversized knits, drawstring bottoms and the ever-practical sneaker.

"Casual and 'athleisure' have taken on a life of their own," declared the NPD Group in a report showing a one per cent increase in total U.S. apparel, footwear and accessories sales from 2013 to 2014 — an additional $2 billion the market researchers attributed largely to growth in sales of activewear, athletic performance footwear, and bags.

The spillover of the dressed-down look from the gym to the streets reflects a change in the way we look at fitness and health, says Alexandra Grant, fashion and lifestyle blogger at To Vogue or Bust. "Fitness and health have had this almost renaissance in terms of being stylish," she says, and back in vogue is the athletic body type exalted in the '80s and early '90s before the waif fad took hold. "I think as health in general and a healthy body type has had a resurgence, people are also celebrating that sort of casual dress that goes with it."

So how does one do comfortcore? Here's a roundup of essentials:

1 Cargo and go

The military-style jacket offers coverage against the elements and a relaxed feel — but don't go overboard with the rugged theme. As Grant says, "The best way to do (the athleisure trend) is to really not alter the rest of your look at all; just infuse one piece at a time." Matching a boxy jacket with a sleep top and heels will ensure you look ready to hit the boardwalk, not the barracks.

>> Intrepid jacket by Gentle Fawn, $145

2 Room to breathe

The skinny pant may be ubiquitous, but when it comes to comfort, it's hard to beat the drawstring pant — loose-fitting, lightweight and, best of all, adjustable. Go from lounging on the couch to stepping out for brunch in a cinch, pun intended.

>> Mojave pant by Gentle Fawn, $105

3 Summer of the sneaker

It's more fun hitting the hot pavement in a sturdy pair of kicks — and it's an easy look for comfort-core beginners, too. "If you would typically wear ballet slippers with skinny jeans and a leather jacket, you can just swap in your New Balance sneakers," says Grant. Pairing high-tops with a flouncy sundress also offers a contrast that gives the outfit a visual pop.

>> Chuck Taylor All Star '70 by Comme des Garçons Play x Converse, $155 (available in mid-June)

4 That '80s look

Like the jumpsuit and prodigious shoulder pads before it, the slouchy sweater has risen from the neon-coloured ashes of the MTV decade. "I love the look of oversized, sort of '80s-inspired sweaters, just the really classic grey fleece ones," says Grant. She suggests pairing it with leather leggings in the winter, and in the summer, a feminine skirt or shorts — anything with "that kind of delicate touch to it, to give it a nice balance."

>> Aloma crew sweatshirt by Roots, $74

5 They've got you covered

Did someone say granny panties? That's right — the comfort-core movement is underway among undies too, with a burgeoning market for fuller, high-waisted styles.

>> Feminist underwear by Me and You, $25 US

7 Neat little package

Accessories are keeping it casual, too. "Incorporating a backpack into your look is really on-trend right now," says Grant. "It encourages you to move a bit more — get on your bike and look stylish while doing it."

>> City backpack by Herschel Supply, $49.99

6 Layers, layers, layers

According to Grant, a big part of making the gym-to-street look work is layering. Besides the functionality of being able to quickly transition between settings, it also adds visual interest, she says. A favourite athleisure piece of Grant's is the sports bra, which she likes to pair with a sheer low-cut tank top, or a high-waisted skirt with a jacket thrown over top.

>> Lane Racerback Bra by Cory Vines, $36

ME AND YOU PHOTO: MAYAN TOLEDANO; ALL OTHER PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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Break out the corn on the cob because summer street festivals are here. SHUTTERSTOCK

Festival season means summer has arrived

EXPLORE

Soak up the sun at one of Toronto's many outdoor festivals

Izabela Szydlo
For Metro

June 21 may be the official first day of summer, but everyone knows the season starts when outdoor festivals begin popping up across the city.

Whether you want to explore Toronto through street festivals, learn about different cultures or just pig out on delicious food while soaking up the sun, you can do so right up until cooler weather sends everyone back indoors.

Kick off the fun in the sun season this weekend with these outdoor gatherings:

PAPE VILLAGE SUMMERFEST

Pape Street is dominated by small-scale retail, restaurant and personal service businesses that make it a great place to enjoy the warm weather.

The area's summer festival takes place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature food, sidewalk sales, rides, inflatables, face painting, skateboard and BMX demos, and more. You can find the festivities between Mortimer and Gamble avenues.

BIRKDALE ART IN THE PARK

If you love art and warm weather, head to the east end of the city for this festival on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Located at the Birkdale Ravine (1299 Ellesmere Rd.), the event gives you a chance to connect with artists displaying their work, and discuss ideas and practices.

You will be able to find drawings, paintings, sculptures, mixed media, printmaking, pottery, jewelry, photography and glass art.

ANNUAL RIVERDALE ART WALK

Are you a connoisseur of art but want to keep it more central? Taking place in Jimmie Simpson Park (870 Queen St. E.), this two-day outdoor art show will highlight established and emerging artists.

It will also make use of retail spaces and artists' studios in the area. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, you will be able to find a gallery wall that will showcase all participating artists, enjoy a people's choice awards, take a guided art walk along Queen Street East and more.

FIELD TRIP

Fork York and Garrison Common get turned into a music lover's dream Saturday and Sunday for this music and arts festival put on by local artist services company Arts & Crafts. Saturday's musical performances will feature headliner Alabama Shakes.

On Sunday, Kentucky rock institution My Morning Jacket will close the festival.

Other noteworthy names will include legendary hip-hop group De La Soul, Hamilton rock royalty Arkells, U.K. pop sensation Marina and The Diamonds, as well as The War On Drugs, Father John Misty, and Purity Ring.

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Get out in the sun in Toronto's green spaces

Izabela Szydlo
For Metro

Toronto, with its 1,600 public parks that cover about 13 per cent of the city, isn't a bad place to be stuck for the summer.

So if you can't get away, get out and discover the outdoor spaces beyond High Park or Woodbine Beach. Even the Toronto Islands have some hidden gems.

"There's so many different nooks and all of the beaches are gorgeous," said Tina Doull, marketing director at Centre Island's Centreville Amusement Park. "You have the ability to go and relax and you can do as much or as little as you want."

While most Torontonians are familiar with Chelsea Beach, it isn't the only option. You can also soak up the sun on Ward's Island Beach, which is a lot more residential; or head to Hanlan's Point, with its clothing-optional, one-kilometre strip of beach; or check out Gibraltar Point Beach.

If you get tired of the sand, Doull said there are many alternatives on the island, including a resurrected favourite.

"The cedar hedge maze is opening this season and it looks gorgeous," Doull said of the unique Toronto labyrinth, which was ripped up by city parks staff in 2011 after years of disrepair and lack of sunlight due to towering trees.

Parks new and old await this summer. SHUTTERSTOCK

William Meany, a businessman who loved the maze as a boy, donated more than $200,000 to ensure its return.

Back on the mainland, meanwhile, there are plenty of new parks to explore.

Take Aga Khan Park. Located at the Aga Khan Museum, this space opened to the public in May and offers a scenic walking route amidst some intriguing landscape architecture.

Then there is June Callwood Park, which rethinks the concept of a park. Forget the grass, this park, which opened last fall, includes a contemporary landscape design, adolescent trees and plenty of pink.

Other parks, meanwhile, have been given new life. Gibson Park is among them. Its recent revitalization links the past and present with a modern twist that features a working orchard with preserved and new apple trees, art installations, gardens and more.

BE PREPARED

Tina Doull, marketing director at Centre Island's Centreville Amusement Park, says there are a few things you should remember when planning your "Toronto Island getaway."

- Pack sunscreen and bug spray.
- You can bring your own food and take advantage of the various picnic locations.
- Peak time on the islands is from about 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Ferries are operating on a summer schedule from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The Toronto skyline seen above the trees on the Toronto Islands. SHUTTERSTOCK

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Fan fic that gives a royal fug

SUMMER READING

Fug Girls take Will and Kate's romance for a novel romp

Henrietta Walmark
Metro | Life

When a little Kate Middleton fan fiction sweeps you off your feet and leaves you curled up on the loveseat binge-reading for the better part of the first gorgeous long weekend of the year, you know you've found the perfect summer read.

That was me on Victoria Day weekend, being royally entertained by The Royal We, a fictionalized recap of a decade-long royal romance, on a holiday honouring a 19th-century royal.

Leave it to Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan, the "fashion assassins" behind the delightfully snarky celebrity style blog Go Fug Yourself, to take the most talked-about romance of this century and twist it into a page turner of a novel. (Full disclosure: I once tweeted @fuggirls a photo of Kate looking impossibly elegant mid-air while playing field hockey in a tartan McQ by McQueen coatdress.)

> **We felt very free to just start making stuff up**
> Co-author Jessica Morgan

Cocks and Morgan's The Royal We (Grand Central Publishing, $29) reimagines Will and Kate's story with American exchange student Rebecca as the commoner who finds herself falling for Prince Nicholas, heir to the British throne, when she spends a year at Oxford.

The idea of turning a fairy tale come true back into fiction arose organically out of a conversation the authors had with their agent, Morgan says, in a phone interview from Los Angeles.

"At the time we were just shooting the breeze talking about Kate Middleton. She makes everything look very easy, but we were saying that the reality can't be easy. It must be very difficult to live in that bright a spotlight," says Morgan.

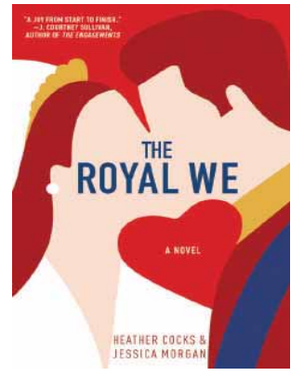
"We started talking about how surreal it must have been for her to go from being a wealthy person — but a very regular middle-class, civilian girl — to being married to Prince William and what that transition must have been like for her."

The Royal We is based on Kate and William, she says, "but once we started writing it, Nick and Bex became their own people for us. We used the main signposts of their relationship, the length of it, the meeting at university but, obviously, none of us really know what happens behind closed doors."

"Because so much of the book is about their private life I think we felt very free to just start making stuff up."

Bex has a twin sister, Lacey, and Nick a roguish younger brother named Freddie — siblings who create complications for the couple — and there is, of course, Nick and Freddie's rather formidable grandmother, Queen Eleanor, all Royal We characters who are clearly based in fact.

Kate and William on their wedding day. GETTY IMAGES



Authors Heather Cocks, left, and Jessica Morgan. INSTAGRAM

"But the tertiary royal family characters are very fictional," says Morgan.

"I think if William and Kate were to read the book — which obviously I hope they're reading it right now," Morgan says, laughing, "I think they would like it.

"It's a sympathetic take on what they go through, actually."

The Royal We is the first adult novel for Cocks and Morgan. In addition to creating Go Fug Yourself, the duo have also co-authored two young adult books, Spoiled and Messy.

The pair met online when they were both writing for Television Without Pity, now defunct, but in the early 2000's the big clearinghouse for recaps on the Internet.

When Heather got a job in Los Angeles, Morgan says, "I was like, I'll take you out for a drink, and I did. The rest is history. We really hit it off. We've been friends ever since."

And co-writers.

"People wonder how we do it," says Morgan. "For us it really doesn't feel that unnatural simply because we've worked together for so long. On the blog, our 11th birthday — Canada Day, actually — is coming up, and so it doesn't feel that strange for us."

"We have the whole book plotted out very, very carefully. And then we trade. I will write until I get sick of writing, working on a couple of chapters," says Morgan. "Then I'll give it to Heather.

"Heather will edit what I wrote, and then she'll write a big old chunk and she'll send it back me, and we'll start the cycle all over again. So we are writing solitarily but we just trade back and forth," she says. "It's like we didn't each write half the book, we each wrote the whole book."

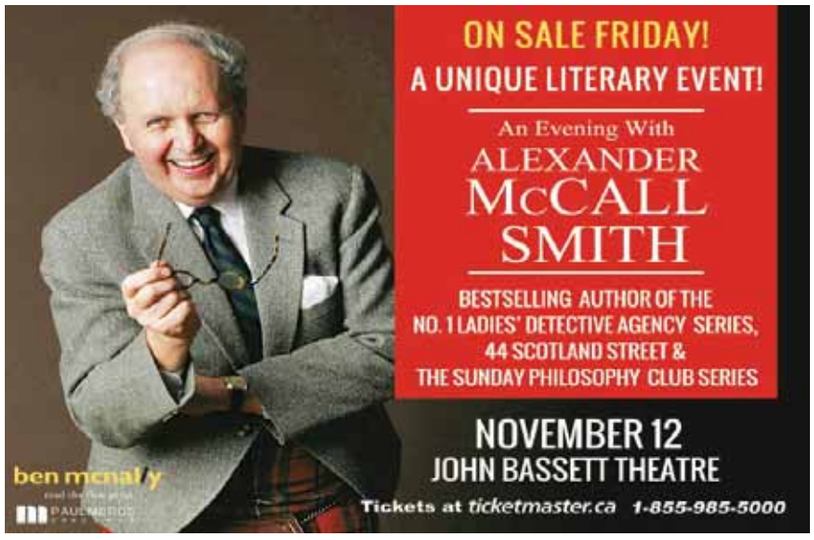
"You don't want to get your writing partner's chunk back and realize she's killed off someone you need for later," Morgan says, laughing.

That attention to detail not only grounds the story but gives The Royal We its zing. Bex and Nick bond over junk treats and Netflix binges of a trash TV show, long before she falls for him. That the course of their love doesn't run smooth is a given. It's the naughty and darker bits that are unexpectedly nice.

The Royal We is a confection of a tale, but a satisfying one, a romantic romp carried by Cocks and Morgan's storytelling.

Morgan says they will write another novel, although they're still caught up in The Royal We after the book's very tight turnaround; Morgan and Cocks handed in the final copy edit in January and the book came out in April.

"We're still coming out of our fog. We're still living in our fictional land, so we haven't really nailed down what we're going to do next," she says. "Definitely we'll write another book, absolutely, but we don't know what yet."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3 BIKINI TRENDS THAT ARE HEATING UP

Swim season is almost here — and with the new season come fresh trends in swimwear. Looking to liven up your bathing suit collection? Check out the looks that swim experts say will continue trending hard all summer long.

MARIANNE HAYES/METRO IN NEW YORK

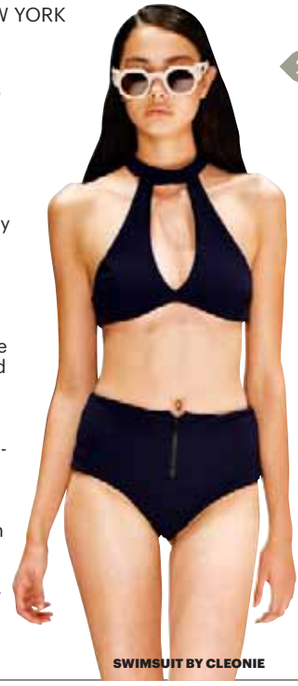
SWIMSUIT BY CLEONIE

1 SPORTY

Athleisure hits the beach

Athletic girls can rejoice: Sporty two-pieces are seriously in. "Athletic as an overall trend has been really strong for us," says Rose Jannuzzi, SVP of Operations for SwimSpot, an online bathing suit retailer based in the U.S. "And it's great because a lot of these pieces can actually be used in an active manner."

In other words, designers are keeping things like water sports and beach volleyball in mind. As a result, multi-use swimwear that can be worn both in the gym pool and by the beach has established itself as a strong trend for summer. This translates to longer bikini tops, more supportive structures, and embellishments like zippers.



SWIMSUIT BY CLEONIE

2 FORGET SPAGHETTI STRAPS

Halter top hotness

Forget strapless; one of the most popular looks in swimwear right now is the high halter top. "It's definitely one of our stronger sellers," says Jannuzzi, adding that the overall look creates the illusion of a larger chest.

Jeannette Roger, co-owner of the Nic del Mar boutique in South Florida, says that popular swim brands like Mikoh, Beach Riot/Stone Cold Fox, and Acacia are all putting their own spins on the trend. "It's great for the girl who wants to be a little bit sporty and a little bit trendy at the same time," says Roger. "Women from 15 to 50 all want to wear those particular brands."

SWIMSUIT BY SURFACE TOO DEEP

3 SOPHISTICATION

High-waisted femininity

We've seen quite a few overly sexy one-piece cutouts over the last couple of swim seasons, as well as the re-emergence of the high-waisted bikini.

This year, it's all about refining the look to create a more delicate feel. The final result is a swimsuit that leaves a little more to the imagination. According to Jannuzzi, cutouts that are more elegant than revealing are in high demand.

All in all, expect to see bathing suits that are feminine and subtly sexy (as opposed to in-your-face revealing).

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

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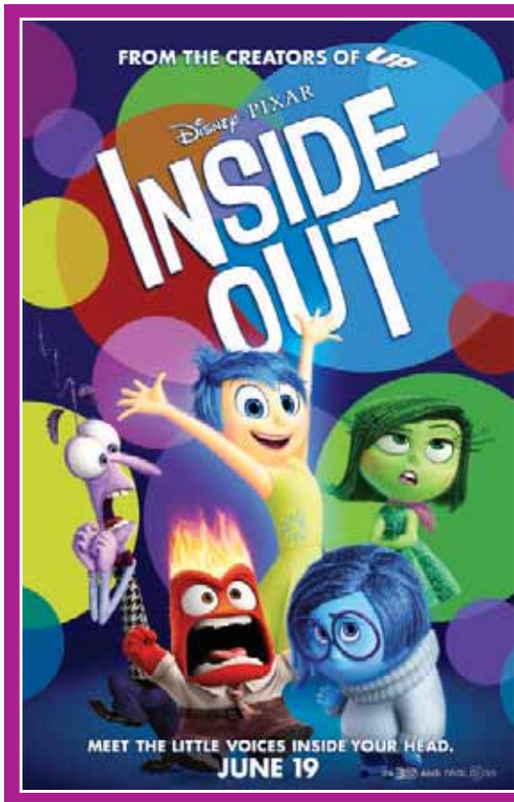

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Math and science tell great stories, too

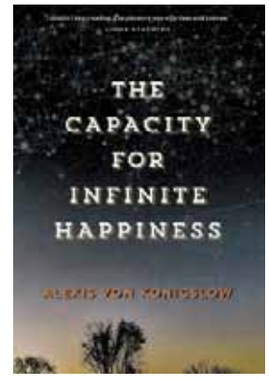
DEBUT WORKS

Authors credit literary success to methodical background

BOOKWORM

Sue Carter

Irina Kovalyova says her robust academic background, including a doctoral degree in microbiology and an MFA in creative writing, inspired her to write Specimen. CONTRIBUTED



A Botox injection dramatically transforms the personality of an unhappy woman. After discovering her birth was the result of artificial insemination, an angry teenager hires a detective to find her donor father. While many characters in Irina Kovalyova's whip-smart debut story collection Specimen struggle with identity, the Vancouver author couldn't escape her own training as a scientist.

"I write about what defines us or what we think defines us. But it's very much science-informed," Kovalyova says.

Growing up in Belarus, Kovalyova started writing stories when she was only six. She was later drawn to early 20th-century Russian and British avant-garde fiction and sci-fi.

"I really liked the possibilities of science and what it can do and the future it offered," she says.

In high school, Kovalyova discovered chemistry.

"I loved the explosions and mixing things to create something new," she says.

Beyond the fact that Kovalyova, who now lives in Vancouver, gets up at 4 a.m. daily to write, her resumé is exhausting. After studying chemistry in Moscow, she moved to the U.S., receiving her Master's degree from Brown University, then a doctoral degree in microbiology from Queen's University, followed by an MFA in creative writing from UBC.

But it's her interactions with students at Simon Fraser University — where she's currently a professor — that most inspired Specimen, published by House of Anansi Press.

Kovalyova credits the dystopian story "Peptide p," written as a scientific report tracking a bizarre disease that attacks children who ate hot dogs, as stemming from her teaching of writing in science.

Like Kovalyova, Toronto author Alexis von Konigslow's training in math and physics at Queen's University partly inspired her debut novel, The Capacity for Infinite Happiness, published by Buckrider Books. Set at a summer resort — based on the Muskoka Lodge, a Jewish vacation spot owned by von Konigslow's family in the 1920s and '30s — the story follows Emily Kogan, a mathematician researching the social network of her Russian-immigrant family.

Von Konigslow says, "There's an elegance and simplicity and beauty to math that's hard to explain. It's very similar to writing: it has its own vocabulary and way of asking and answering questions."

In a parallel storyline, The Capacity for Infinite Happiness travels back to reveal Emily's dark family secrets, intertwined with those of their famous guests: the comedic Marx Brothers.

Sue Carter is editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Main: Emma Hooper's debut novel (inset) takes readers on a journey. MARTIN TOMPKINS/CONTRIBUTED

From the Land of Living Skies to sea

LITERATURE

Canadian-born author comes home with her debut novel

Emily Laurence
Metro in New York City

Emma Hooper's much-lauded debut novel, Etta and Otto and Russell and James, started out a very different book than it turned out to be.

The book follows Etta, a woman in her 80s, who rises one morning to walk across Canada's prairie land all the way until she sees the ocean. By way of an explanation, she leaves a note to her husband Otto and some recipes, so he can cook for himself.

"Originally, I had Otto going on the journey," Hooper told us. "Then I had a feminist realization that I was doing that as a socially imposed automatic reaction where the man does (his) thing and the woman waits. I thought it would be much more interesting if I swapped it around."

Hooper had her own Etta-like journey, albeit on a smaller scale. The author participated in the Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride in England, an 875-mile trek that takes almost three months to complete.

"I loved spending all day just moving forward," said Hooper, who now lives in the U.K. "It was very meditative ... I just like that goal, to always move forward."

That said, Hooper was not a fan of camping at night and trying to find a semi-dry place to lay her head. She said she spent the tour perpetually cold and wet.

"That's why I gave Etta a summer journey in Canada," she said.

Despite her trip, Hooper said she doesn't necessarily feel more connected to Etta than the book's other three primary characters. The novel is told through multiple narratives, which Hooper said helped give her momentum as a writer.

"I think I'm just a distractible human," she said. "I liked jumping between them because if I ran out of something to say from one character's point of view, I could just be one of the other characters for a while."

IN BRIEF

First book of Stephen King's Dark Tower series will be made into a movie

The cinematic adaptation of Stephen King's novel The Dark Tower is to be helmed by Nikolaj Arcel, the director of Oscar-nominated A Royal Affair.

Nikolaj has proven himself able to work with popular literature before, having helped adapt Stieg Larsson's The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo for the 2009 original Swedish film, as well as Danish productions King's Game and Journey to Saturn.

The Stephen King association is yet to be confirmed but comes courtesy of Deadline. AFP

PUBLISHING

Shonda Rhimes said yes to Simon & Schuster

Shonda Rhimes' first book will have a positive message. The award-winning showrunner and creator of Grey's Anatomy and Scandal has an agreement with Simon & Schuster for Year of Yes, the publisher announced this week.

Rhimes was inspired to write the book, coming in November, after she was dared in December 2013 to for one year say yes to unexpected invitations.

In a statement issued through Simon & Schuster, Rhimes said she had not planned to tell about her year of challenges. But, in the spirit of taking chances, she couldn't turn down Simon & Schuster's suggestion to write a book.

"I had no choice — what else could I say but yes?" she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mangan prefers to stick to his roots

INTERVIEW

More at home at festivals than industry showcases

Dan Mangan took in his sixth South By Southwest this year with a weary veteran's eye, turning his Twitter account into an outlet for sardonic play-by-play.

Among his dozens of insights: "if a band plays a show and no one is around to see it, does it still make a sound?" and "inspiring keynote this afternoon: 'if you work hard enough you can literally make hundreds and hundreds of dollars.'"

The two-time Juno winner has a rather sunnier outlook as he stares down the summer festival circuit, beginning with this weekend's Field Trip in Toronto.

"It's totally different," said Mangan. "The thing about South By (Southwest) that's so overwhelming is this parade of projected image, everyone trying to be really cool."

"Festivals generally have good food, there's lots of time to relax and you're catching up with friends you haven't seen for a long time."

Before summer's out, Mangan will play festivals in Ottawa, Sudbury, Winnipeg, Pemberton and Yellowknife. He talked to The Canadian Press about the new album and his contributions to the critically derided Hector and the Search for Happiness.

Since releasing Club Meds in January, have your feelings about the album changed?
Not really. Right out of the gate when I was talking to journalists, I was probably more boastful about this record than anything I'd done before. If anything has changed, it's like my compass has again started to shift and I think: "OK, what's the next move?"

The record is something of a departure. Is it hard to be reassessed at this point in your career?
We've never been a Pitchfork band, and this record is probably more in line with what Pitchfork likes to write about than anything I've done. But there's no way they're going to write about us because it's our fourth record. They made up their minds that we're some bearded folkie Canadians.

You contributed music to Hector and the Search for Happiness. The critical reception was less than kind.
It was pretty ruthless. Honestly, I don't think it deserved as much venom as it got. When it comes to the music, I'm really proud. It was an unbelievably vast project, way more intense for me than any of (my) albums.

Even if people didn't like the film, I'd like to think that they could listen to the soundtrack and enjoy that.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dan Mangan looking forward to the summer festival circuit, which will take him to the West Coast and Northwest Territories. JONATHAN TAGGART/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TOURING

Vancouver-based musician opening for Shania Twain

For Wes Mack, the realization that he was opening for Shania Twain seemed to strike in stages.

One morning, the Calgary-raised country singer awoke to increasingly urgent texts from his agent: he would accompany Twain on a portion of her final arena tour, beginning Friday in Seattle and whisking through nine Canadian cities, wrapping June 28 in Montreal.

The first revelation was seeing the tour poster with his name on it. Next was seeing that same poster in billboard form.

Finally, he was in the crowd at an Eric Church gig in his adopted home of Vancouver, and Mack realized he was less than two months from performing on the same Rogers Arena stage.

"In the back of my head, I don't even really still buy it," said a cheerful Mack. "It won't really hit home until I walk into the building — because it does still seem very far-fetched.

"She's a calibre of artist where she could probably call 99 per cent of the artists in the world and ask if they would want to open for her and she'd get a yes.

"It's fairly inconceivable that they've chosen me."

Mack's entertaining career began in acting, with recurring roles on CBC's Heartland and the U.S. hit Smallville. Since shifting to music, he's scored two Top 10s on the Canadian country chart, both of which are on his self-titled EP, out this week.

Wes Mack to open for country megastar. THE CANADIAN PRESS

You moved from Calgary to Vancouver at 18. Is Vancouver hospitable to country music?
It's an interesting difference. Vancouver has collided with so many of its suburbs ... and I find a lot of those outlying areas are far more into country than central Vancouver.

I've been pleasantly surprised, though. I wouldn't have assumed Vancouver had a huge amount of country music, but I remember opening for Florida Georgia Line here and I've never played to a louder crowd — it was a Friday night in downtown Vancouver.

Do you plan to juggle acting and music?
Ultimately I got into music before I got into acting. It wouldn't seem that way because I probably enjoyed more success as an actor early on, but I've been playing in a band since I was 13 years old, started playing guitar when I was like 11, started playing drums at five. I didn't get into acting until I was 20 or something like that.

I've very much enjoyed the career I've had as an actor, and I certainly hope at some point in the future to return to that, but ultimately right now I'm a musician and I'm doing what I want to be doing.

I simply don't have time (to do both). From a scheduling perspective, it's a bit of a nightmare.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Brown is a bad passenger

SMH

Singer berates 'old ass' flight attendant, tries to hotbox plane

IN HOLLYWOOD

Ned Ehrbar

Chris Brown. ALL PHOTOS GETTY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Brown really needs to work on his people skills.

In the latest round of faux pas by the embattled singer, Brown reportedly made life hell for the crew of a private jet.

The singer apparently was "smoking a ton of pot" despite FAA regulations and requests he stop, according to Us Weekly.

"He blew smoke at a flight attendant and said, 'I paid $60,000 for this jet, so I own it and everyone inside,'" a source says.

He also took aim at another flight attendant: "He told her, 'What is your old ass doing here anyway? I like to have the help be people I'd actually like to f—," the source adds.

Charming, that one.

Also, Chris? Hotboxing a jet and being a jerk to the crew is basically where Justin Bieber was behaviour-wise more than a year ago, so step up your game. And another thing, someone needs to tell him that a private jet — not to mention the people inside — costs much more than 60 grand, so really he was more renting everyone inside of it.

ONCE A CHEATER...

Stripper advises Jennifer Garner to 'run' from Affleck

How do you know your marriage is in trouble? When a stripper purported to be involved in your husband's last big breakup is chiming in — on the record, using her real name — about how you should kick him to the curb.

"I can't say I'm surprised," Tammy Morris tells the National Enquirer when told about rumours that Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner are headed for a split.

"I believe 'once a cheater always a cheater.' My advice to Jen is: Run!"

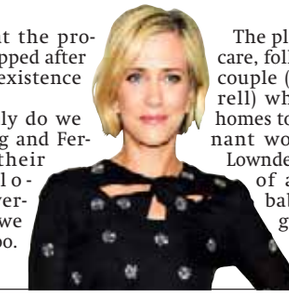
Morris gained some notoriety 12 years ago when she went on the record claiming Affleck had cheated on then-fiancée Jennifer Lopez with her.

For her part, Morris is really just disappointed in Affleck, which is kind of the icing on the cake here.

"I was really hoping Ben had turned his life around," she says. "He married the all-American girl. It's too bad he couldn't make it work." Oof.

A DEADLY ADOPTION

Wiig's Lifetime movie back on



Don't worry, fans of ridiculous camp, that top-secret Lifetime movie starring Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig that wasn't going to happen is apparently actually going to happen again. And soon.

A billboard for A Deadly Adoption featuring the two stars popped up in L.A. this week with an airdate of June 20, despite claims by Ferrell in April that the project was scrapped after news of its existence leaked.

So not only do we still get Wiig and Ferrell doing their best melodramatic overacting, but we get it soon, too. Score.

The plot, in case you care, follows a married couple (Wiig and Ferrell) who open their homes to a young pregnant woman (Jessica Lowndes) in the hopes of adopting her baby, but things go terribly, terribly wrong, naturally.

I AM CAIT

E! releases promo for Caitlyn Jenner documentary series

Caitlyn Jenner SCREENSHOT

The E! Entertainment network says its documentary series on Caitlyn Jenner premiering next month will be titled I Am Cait, and is showing a promo video for the series depicting her applying makeup.

The Olympic champion is featured in an eight-episode series depicting her transition from a man to a woman that will debut July 26.

E! ramped up promotion Wednesday by releasing a video of Jenner applying lipstick while sitting at a makeup table. She says for the first time a professional had come in and applied makeup for her. "What a difference," she says.

While driving near her California home in the video, Jenner declares: "I'm the new normal."

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Tech behind units of the future

CONDOS

Office towers could be repurposed for community

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

The new film Tomorrowland premiered in theatres last week, and audiences got a taste of the whimsical, futuristic city of needle-shaped skyscrapers and flying cars.

What is now science fiction is poised to become reality sooner than you might expect, as new technological innovations become standard fare for Canadian homes.

Architects and manufacturers are collaborating with the real-estate and construction industries to devise advanced new products and building materials. Condominiums of the future will be geared towards convenience, safety and the security of their occupants.

Canadian architectural firm Onespace Unlimited specializes in hotel and condominium projects across the country. In one future-looking concept, the company has reimagined Toronto's financial district 100 years from now. OneVision is a Tomorrowland-like community in the city core where skyscraper office towers are converted into vertical cities, replete with interconnecting skyways, helicopter landing pads and aerial parks.

In the acclaimed 1970s book Future Shock, futurist Alvin Toffler envisioned residents living in vacant office towers. Fast-forward 40 years and Onespace president Rod Rowbotham says it's happening now. He imagines a highly connected world where there's no need to travel or "gather" at a place of work.

"At a moment's notice, you can be sitting in your living room with multiple translucent displays and you can be talking to people in all parts of the country."

> **"The condo market is a little slow moving when it comes to adapting to technology**
> Onespace Unlimited president Rod Bowbotham

As a result, he adds, there will be a lot of surplus office towers, repurposed for community use. Imagine a police station on the 51st floor of a building, for example.

"We don't look at architecture as a result of something. Whatever shapes it is happening because of us as people."

Rowbotham says that although the condo industry is slow to adapt, these amazing advances are just around the corner.

"All of that interesting technology is out there, but it's not in practice yet. The condo market is a little slow moving when it comes to adapting to technology."

With the evolution of the Internet of things, über-smart, network-connected appliances will be standard features in every condo. Software systems are now available that monitor all the devices in your home.

Nest Labs is a pioneer in the area of home automation. Spokesperson Zoz Cuccias says the company has made its innovative learning technology open to independent developers.

"The Nest Program is our developer program, so we've been able to partner with a lot of different great companies to provide integrations within the home."

ABOVE: A concept by Onespace Unlimited that reimagines the transformation of financial districts into vertical cities with dense living spaces connected by transportation networks.

RIGHT: Talk to your fridge? There's an app for that. LG HomeChat literally lets you chat with your appliances from your mobile device.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

COMING SOON

Technologies to feature in new developments

Self-healing paint
Imagine your condo painted so you'd never have to touch up scratches again. New paint technologies that employ self-healing polymers are already available on the market.

Solar panel windows
Researchers have developed a fully transparent solar cell that could turn every window into an energy source. The technology also lends itself to exterior siding and pavement. Think of all those condo windows as a mini power plant.

Smart elevators
To save energy, the lights and fan won't run until there are people in the cab. Also, there won't be any buttons to push. That's because the intuitive elevator will know where you intend to go. If you live in the penthouse, the system can use GPS to tell when you're arriving and summon the car to the ground floor.

Car-charging stations
Builders are pre-wiring underground parking lots with electric-car charging stations.

DUNCAN McALLISTER

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Project overview

To complement its successful Love condos development, Gemterra launches the next phase of this family-friendly, east-end community. The clean, modern tower will feature open-concept layouts and flowing floor plans. Residents can enjoy an adjoining glass amenities building and landscaped rooftop terrace.

Building amenities

The building will offer an indoor pool with hot tub and saunas, as well as a fully equipped gym. There's a landscaped green roof activity area, a barbecue patio, a lounge, billiards room and a guest suite.

In the neighbourhood

The condo is surrounded by diverse shopping, restaurants and entertainment venues. Next door, the Agincourt Mall boasts a bakery, grocery store, florist and several banks. Nearby is Ron Watson Park, Tam O'Shanter golf course and cycling trails.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Joy condominiums
Builder: Gemterra Developments Corporation
Location: 195 Bonis Ave.
Building: 260 units in a 21-storey tower and 22 townhomes
Sizes: 606 to 844 sq. ft.
Pricing: From low $200,000s to the high $300,000s
Suites: One bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den
Status: Pre-construction
Occupancy: Fall 2018
Sales Centre: 3573 Sheppard Ave. E. at Birchmount
Info: 416-491-5683, joycondos.com

Location and transit

Joy is in a highly transit-friendly hub close to TTC bus routes and the proposed Sheppard Avenue subway. Residents will be near the Agincourt GO and Kennedy subway stations with fast access to Highways 401, 407, 404 and the Don Valley Parkway.

ADVICE

Condo buyers should heed, budget for 'adjustments'

LEGAL MATTERS

Jeffrey Cowan

Q: We are purchasing a new condo from a builder and we have obtained a copy of the statement of adjustments from our lawyer. In the document, there are a number of additional charges that result in us having to provide several thousand dollars more in order to close the transaction. Our lawyer says that if we do not pay these charges, the builder will not transfer the property. How can we get these charges reduced?

A: Contained in your original Agreement of Purchase and Sale is a section entitled "adjustments." This clause sets out in general terms the additional costs involved in the purchase of the condo. These costs covers such items as meter installation, city development charges, Tarion warranty fees and a bunch of extra fees. On signing your agreement, which you may have done some years ago, your attention should have turned to this clause so that you are prepared to pay these fees.

These are costs that come from the builder and are not additional expenses imposed on you by your lawyer. Being prepared and budgeting for these fees is important when purchasing a new condo.

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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 ETOBICOKE

Open house: A two-bedroom suite at The Waterford condos on the lake near Mimico, in an area known as Humber Bay Shores. Head over to 2087 Lake Shore Blvd. W. on Saturday, 2-4 p.m.
CONTACT: KATHY SZATMARI, 416-816-5401

2 DOWNTOWN

Final release: The Bond condos unveils the Connected Collection: two new floors, a limited number of suites, financial incentives and special offers. Visit the sales centre at 373 King St. W., Suite 302, Toronto.
CONTACT: 416-546-7525, THEBOND.CA

3 WEST DON LANDS

Open house: The Ninety condo residences at Broadview and Queen. Two suites will be shown — a one bedroom and one bedroom plus den. Visit 90 Broadview Ave., Saturday and Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
CONTACT: NICOLE VAN STONE, 416-219-4380

Development charges lead to benefits for all

Bryan Tuckey

Developing complete communities means more than just building homes, offices and retail space. It's about creating places where people can play, as well as live and work.

Trails, parks and recreational centres are major hubs and often the heart of communities, with the building and land development industry and new-home buyers playing important roles in their creation.

It is a common misconception that all new public amenities, such as parks, are built by municipalities using property taxes collected from current residents.

The truth is, in many cases, much of the funding comes from development charges and other development-related fees which are paid by new-home purchasers, as part of the cost of their new homes.

Development charges are a tax imposed by local municipalities, as well as GO Transit and education boards, and are paid for by new-home buyers to help offset capital costs of growth-related municipal services, such as roads, sewers and parks.

BILD advocates for fair and reasonable government fees and charges, as well as increased transparency and accountability around how the funds are collected and applied.

Often amenities that are largely funded by development changes and paid for by new-home buyers are benefits all residents enjoy.

A great example can be found in the town of Milton, Ont., home to the new Mattamy National Cycling Centre — one of two internationally sanctioned timber tracks in Canada.

The track will first be used as a venue during the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games and then open for public use.

The $56-million capital costs for the facility were primarily funded through development charges, federal grants and private donations, including a $2-million naming rights sponsorship from Mattamy Homes and a $7-million donation from Mattamy's founder Peter Gilgan's Foundation. About 25 per cent of the project budget came from development charges generated by new-home buyers, Mattamy Homes and other local developers and builders.

56M

Amount of dollars in capital costs for the new Mattamy National Cycling Centre in Milton, Ont.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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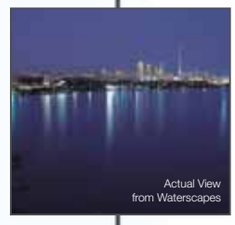

HOURS: Monday - Thursday: 12 - 6pm | Weekends & Holidays: 12 - 5pm | Closed Friday

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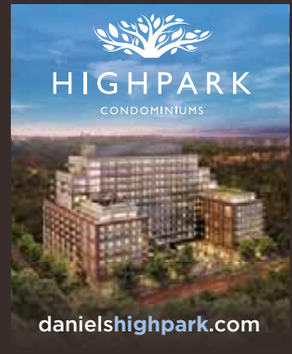

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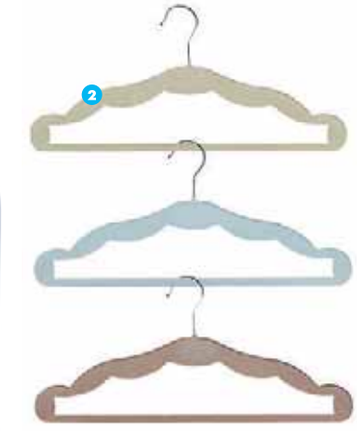
Hotel-like luxe for your guests

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

Expecting friends and family to visit or participating in a little Airbnb this summer? Don't forget these touches that will make your guests' stay feel extra special.



1 Lavender Linen Spray
Freshen up guest room towels and bed linens with a spritz of summer lavender. $18, Crabtree-Evelyn.ca

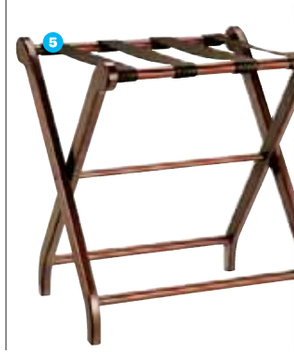
2 Barbara Barry Velveteen Suit Hangers
Add some style to your clothing and your closet. $15/8-pack, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

3 Nespresso C40 Inissia White
One of the smallest espresso machine footprints makes for never needing to leave the guest room in the morning. $149, Nespresso.ca

4 Concord Round Basket
Offer up a stylish bed-to-bath carrier for those trips to the shower. $39, EQ3.com

5 Intercontinental Luggage Rack
Turn your guest's luggage into a workable dresser by unfolding a luggage rack. $149, Bombay.ca

6 Royal Elite Down 50" x 70" Throw
Something cosy without being too warm; a down-filled throw will take off the chill. $98, Walmart.ca



metro SPORTS

"This is probably the best I've been" — LeBron James on the eve of the NBA Finals

Thursday, June 4, 2015

IN BRIEF

Djokovic halts Nadal's Roland Garros dominance

Novak Djokovic ended Rafael Nadal's 39-match French Open winning streak by beating the nine-time champion in a surprisingly lopsided quarterfinal 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 on Wednesday.

It is only the second defeat for Nadal in 72 career matches at Roland Garros.

Andy Murray, who defeated David Ferrer 7-6 (4), 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, awaits Djokovic in the semifinals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanaka picks up where he left off as Yanks sweep M's

Garrett Jones and Mark Teixeira homered, Masahiro Tanaka gave up one run over seven innings in his return from the disabled list and the New York Yankees completed a three-game sweep of Seattle Mariners with a 3-1 victory Wednesday.

Tanaka (3-1) made his first start in more than a month and did not miss a beat. Despite being on an 80-pitch limit in his return, Tanaka got through seven innings and struck out nine batters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BoSox's Rodriguez the real deal through 2 starts

Eduardo Rodriguez followed up his brilliant major-league debut by allowing one run and two hits in seven innings, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 6-3 in the opener of a day-night doubleheader Wednesday.

In his previous start, Rodriguez led Boston to a 5-1 win at Texas in which he left after giving up three hits in 7-2/3 shutout innings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blatter receives standing ovation from FIFA staff

A day after announcing his decision to resign, Sepp Blatter was back at work at FIFA headquarters on Wednesday as the corruption crisis continued to unfold.

Staff described Blatter as being emotional during a 10-minute address, and said he received a standing ovation.

Meanwhile, Interpol added six men with ties to FIFA to its most wanted list. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STANLEY CUP FINAL

BLACKHAWKS RALLY FOR LATE COMEBACK

Lightning centre Steven Stamkos, right, knocks Blackhawks defenceman Johnny Oduya off the puck during Game 1 in Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday night. Teuvo Teravainen and Antoine Vermette scored two minutes apart in the third period and the Blackhawks overcame an early deficit to win 2-1. Alex Killorn scored for the Lightning. Chicago takes a 1-0 series lead into Game 2 on Saturday night in Tampa.

MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

GAME 1 In Tampa, Fla.

2	1

Buehrle blanks Nationals

MLB

Blue Jays' veteran lefty earns his 11th career shutout

Mark Buehrle threw a six-hitter — his 11th career shutout — and the Toronto Blue Jays scored four runs in the first inning to close the interleague series against the Washington Nationals with an 8-0 victory Wednesday night.

Buehrle (7-4) worked fast and effectively against the NL East leaders, needing only 93 pitches for his first shutout since 2013.

The first four batters reached against Taylor Jordan (0-2), who made his first start this season for the Nationals this season with Stephen Strasburg sidelined.

Jose Bautista, Chris Colabello and Kevin Pillar had RBI singles in the first inning. Bautista hit a solo home run in the eighth.

WEDNESDAY In D.C.

8	0
BLUE JAYS	NATIONALS

Jose Reyes had three hits and drove in two runs.

Bryce Harper went 2-for-4 with a double. The Nationals outfielder was named National League Player of the Month for May before the game. He batted .360 with 13 home runs and 28 RBIs last month.

The teams split Tuesday's rain-forced doubleheader with the Blue Jays winning the nightcap 7-3.

Toronto had lost 16 of 21 road games before consecutive victories in Washington.

Buehrle's previous shutout was a two-hitter against Houston on July 25, 2013.

Buehrle picked up his 30th career win in interleague play, the most among active players, and 206th of his Major League career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Buehrle improved his record this season to 7-4.

ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Foley comes full circle, back to anchor Argos' D-line

Everything seems strangely familiar to Ricky Foley these days, right down to where he eats dinner.

The six-foot-three, 258-pound defensive end is in his second tenure with the Toronto Argonauts after being acquired from the Saskatchewan Roughriders in January for linebacker Shea Emry. And with the Double Blue holding training camp at York University, the 32-year-old native of Courtice has returned to where he first donned football pads.

"I've come full circle," Foley said. "It's nice to be home but just so weird.

"We're eating at Stong College where 13, 14 years ago I was a young buck wet behind the ears with no idea about football or what was going on. It's crazy to be back here."

Ricky Foley

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's been quite a ride since for Foley. Taken in the first round, fourth overall, at the 2006 CFL draft by the B.C. Lions, Foley has played on three championship teams (B.C. in 2006, Toronto in 2012 and Saskatchewan in 2013) and been named both the league's and Grey Cup's top Canadian (2009, 2012, respectively).

The Argos hope Foley and Tristan Okpalaugo can give them bookend pass-rushers. Both posted 12 sacks last season — for Foley, that tied a career high — just three behind league-leader John Chick of Saskatchewan.

Foley recorded 20 sacks the last two seasons in Saskatchewan, but Argos head coach Scott Milanovich said the dangerous end does more than terrorize opposing quarterbacks.

"The thing I've always been the most impressed with Ricky isn't even his numbers ... it's he never stops playing," Milanovich said. "He gets a lot of junk fumbles because he's running hard." THE CANADIAN PRESS

MetroTalks Karina LeBlanc

KEVIN TUONG FOR METRO

Canada 'keeper sits down to talk Women's World Cup

Leah Holoiday
Metro | Edmonton

In one month, Karina LeBlanc will hang up her cleats and retire from a 17-year career with the Canadian women's national team.

While the countdown to the close of her career is on — a career that includes an Olympic bronze medal, three Pan American Games and four FIFA Women's World Cup appearances — the Maple Ridge, B.C., product said she has one thing on her mind.

That's Saturday.

The 35-year-old goalkeeper and her teammates begin their 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup campaign on Saturday against China at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton.

After nearly two decades playing the sport, LeBlanc says not much can phase her. However, preparing for a World Cup on home turf can bring back rookie butterflies.

"I don't think anything ever prepares you for that," LeBlanc said at the Metro Edmonton office on Wednesday. "It's not only the pride and proudness of playing in front of your friends, family and countrymen, but it's the emotions that come with that."

LeBlanc is one of 23 players playing for Canada, ranging in age from 17-year-old newcomer Jessie Fleming, to veterans Rhian Wilkinson, 33 and Melissa Trancredi, 33.

> **It is imperative that people don't show up quiet. They show up loud. They show up in red.**
> Karina LeBlanc

Despite the age gaps, LeBlanc says the team has fully jelled and ready to compete.

"It doesn't matter your age, it doesn't matter your experience, it's the fact that we have this tight family and this family is going to connect in front of the bigger family, which is the country."

The Canadian women's team has come a long way since its struggles at the 2011 World Cup LeBlanc said.

"We gave what we thought was our best and we came dead last," LeBlanc said.

Despite that disappointment, the team was able to regroup and pull together to secure the bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

"It's incredible all of the different emotions (you experience) in a short time, but I think one of the great lessons is that anything is possible if you believe in it," she said.

With nothing on her mind right now except the World Cup (nope, there's no plan for after retirement quite yet), LeBlanc said she'll be looking to the Canadian crowd to push the team into its highest gear.

"It is imperative that people don't show up quiet. They show up loud," LeBlanc said.

"They show up in red.

"There will be moments in this World Cup, where Canadians help us win."

KARINA'S PICKS

Peanut butter or Nutella? Peanut butter

Favourite food? Mango

Favourite drink? Coconut water

Second favourite sport? Basketball

Person you most admire? My parents

Athlete you most admire? Michael Jordan

Favourite match ever? The final of the 2015 Women's World Cup

Favourite hair colour? Red

Hair spray, mousse or cream? Hair spray

Messi or Ronaldo? (Manuel) Neuer, the goalkeeper from Germany

Breakout star of the World Cup? The Canadian women's national team

City you're most excited to play in? Vancouver

World Cup final matchup? Canada versus the next best team

+ CONTROVERSY

From concerns over artificial turf to FIFA's bribery scandal, controversy has not been in short supply ahead of the Women's World Cup.

But Karina LeBlanc says her mind is only on the field of play.

"We've worked since the last World Cup every single day for this one and I don't think anything is going to take away from that for us," she said.

Much has been made of the artificial turf being used instead of regular grass.

LeBlanc said the team was always prepared.

"I can't speak for other countries," she said. "Every team is going to bring their best and I think every team has dealt with the issues of turf or grass. I know for us, our focus has been on the World Cup."

LeBlanc says she hasn't paid much attention to the high-level bribery scandal amongst FIFA executives.

"I'm not even focused on that, to be honest. I don't think any of the athletes playing in this tournament are focused on that."

Her few words have real kick

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

When Sinclair speaks her teammates pay attention

John Herdman usually doesn't speak to his team in the locker-room after games. The Canadian women's soccer coach prefers to talk later, when heads are cooler.

But in the wake of the crushing 4-3 extra-time loss to the United States in the semifinals at the 2012 Olympics, Herdman knew he had to say something sooner than later. As he walked through the tunnels toward the dressing room at Old Trafford, Herdman told team psychiatrist Ceri Evans his plan.

"He said, 'Look, I think you're right. Let's script some things and make sure we get the message right, because you won't get another chance at this,'" Herdman recalled.

As they approached the dressing room, equipment manager Maeve Glass came out. She was crying. "She said 'Look, you don't need to go in there, it's done ... Christine (captain Christine Sinclair) just spoke to the team in a way she's never spoke to them before.' And there wasn't a dry eye in the room."

Said goalie Erin McLeod: "I get emotional every time I think about the speech." The team huddled up. "You could hear a pin drop," said McLeod. And Sinclair, who scored all three Canadian goals that night in a memorable performance, rallied her troops.

153

Sinclair, who turns 32 on June 12, has 153 goals in 223 appearances.

"I just remember sitting in the locker-room at Old Trafford," Sinclair recalled. "Just everyone was heartbroken, rightfully so. Myself included. After a couple of minutes, it sort of hit me that three days from now we're playing for a bronze medal. Just this feeling came over me that I had to say something to this team.

"And I told them I had never been more proud to be their teammate. That the end result didn't happen against the Americans but I've never been more proud to wear that shirt. And that if heading into London, somebody would have said 'You're going to be playing for a bronze medal,' we would have taken it in a heartbeat. And I'm not leaving London without one.

"I don't know. It just had to be said. Cool if it had an impact on people."

It's typically modest Sinclair, who avoids the spotlight as if it was toxic. She likes to reduce her leadership skills to little more than leading by example. But her post-game address at the Theatre of Dreams sparked the team.

The Canadian women picked themselves off the floor and went on to defeat France 1-0 for the bronze medal thanks to a Diana Matheson goal in stoppage time. The medal came 13 months after Canada finished dead last at the 2011 World Cup.

"She's no ranter," says Herdman. "She leads in a very subtle way. And I think often the best leaders, they don't say much but when they speak, people listen. Because they don't say much."

Canada, ranked eighth in the world, kicks off the Women's World Cup against No. 16 China on Saturday in Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada captain Christine Sinclair TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 8 minutes

Ingredients
- 8 oz macaroni or small shell pasta
- 12 oz peeled and deveined raw shrimp
- ⅓ cup light mayonnaise
- ⅓ cup low-fat sour cream
- ¼ cup sweet tomato chili sauce or ketchup
- ½ cup minced green bell pepper
- ½ cup minced red bell pepper
- ½ cup minced red onion
- ½ cup chopped fresh dill or parsley
- pinch freshly ground black pepper

Directions

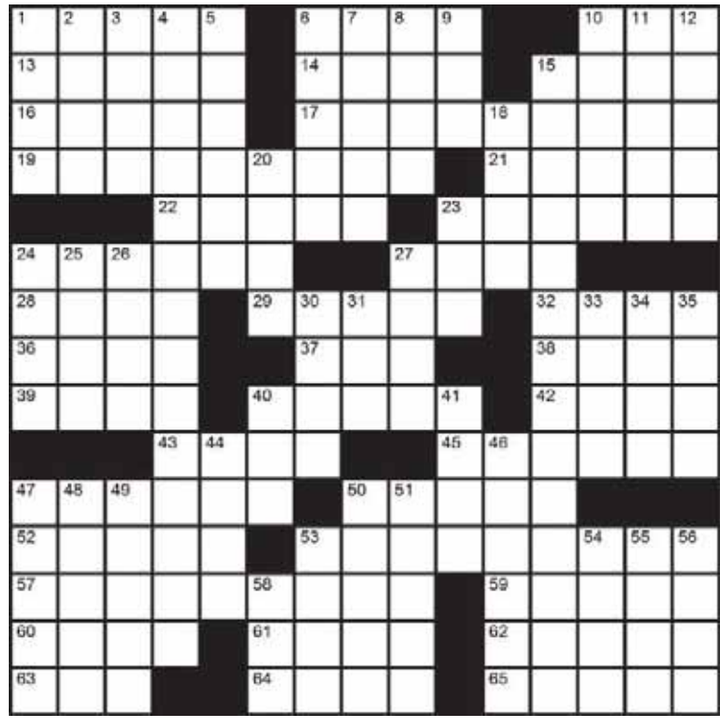
1. Cook the macaroni in a pot of boiling water for eight to 10 minutes, or until tender but firm.
2. Drain, rinse under cold running water and drain thoroughly.
3. If using large or jumbo shrimp, cut into halves. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil and place over medium-high heat. Cook until pink, about two minutes.
4. Combine the mayonnaise, sour cream and chili sauce in a small bowl and mix well.
5. Combine the green and red pepper, onion, dill, pepper, pasta, shrimp and dressing in a serving bowl. Toss to coat well. Chill before serving.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 394
- Protein 22 g
- Fat 9 g
- Cholesterol 99 mg
- Sodium 283 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Big divide
6. Web address starter
10. 'S' in SPCA [abbr.]
13. Espresso style
14. Cincinnati's home
15. Early helicopter
16. Molecular bits
17. Chapped skin product: 2 wds.
19. Great Big Sea song about a real life Beothuk woman of Newfoundland: "__ Dream"
21. __ & Hawk (Juno-winning band from Winnipeg)
22. Office amounts
23. Ultimate
24. Surrounded by, to The Bard
27. Denpasar is its capital
28. Thought
29. Isolated
32. Voluminous book
36. Fibber
37. __ _ break (Away from one's desk)
38. Majestic
39. Gambler's input
40. Peggys __ Lighthouse (Iconic red-and-white attraction at Peggys Cove)
42. Shindig
43. "__ she blows!"
45. South American wild cat
47. Vintage girdle
50. Pasture place
52. .pdf files program, __ Acrobat
53. Cadbury treat a Viking would love
57. __ __ of Canada = RBC
59. Celine Dion's asset
60. Peanuts character
61. Ballet movement
62. Plaudit
63. Iron's partner
64. Post
65. Slangly-spelled agendas

DOWN
1. Clothed
2. Really don't like
3. Mr. Egoyan
4. Body of water where Peggys Cove is situated: 3 wds.
5. Muddles
6. Boring
7. 1894 Jules Massenet opera
8. Dye
9. Pea's packaging
10. Warfare attack
11. Verbal tests
12. Space object
15. Nova Scotia: Some of the Eastern Shore is composed of this rugged stuff: 2 wds.
18. 'Roof' a room
20. Info
23. Business excess
24. Ms. Kunis
25. Norse deity
26. Orderly
27. __ muffins
30. Broke
31. Singer Ms. DiFranco
33. Iridescent gem
34. Fermented soybean paste
35. Genuine
40. Ms. Benatar
41. Three-__ sloth
44. Scoundrel
46. Fourth wife of Henry VIII, Anne of __ (b.1515 - d.1557)
47. Movie producer Mr. Ponti
48. Stench
49. Rolls-__ (Posh car)
50. "__ __ Acapulco" (1963) starring Elvis Presley
51. Tattooed
53. Corduroy line
54. Nastiness
55. Mil. school
56. Soaks flax
58. Country singer married to actress Kimberly Williams ...his initials-sharers

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
With Mars, your ruler, on such excellent form how can you possibly fail? This is one of those occasions when you must take risks, when you must push the limits. For you there are no limits, so light up the sky.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will surprise a few people with your tough guy act today. Usually you are placid in the extreme and rarely raise your voice but over the next 24 hours you will go right the other way. Scream and shout!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you push yourself hard now you will accomplish more in the next 24 hours than most people manage in 24 days. You won't lack for energy or passion — and if you use your brains you won't lack for anything.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you don't get what you want one way, you will get it another — you are in one of your imperious moods, the kind where you can easily intimidate people. No one says "no" to a Cancer — at least not today.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't worry about making mistakes, worry only that you might miss out on a glorious opportunity because you were too timid. If you take a chance it will pay off, even if the odds are stacked against you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone in a position of authority will challenge you to do more and do better today. You will rise to the challenge and show them and the world at large what you can do. Your ambition knows no bounds.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are in the mood to shock. You want to see the look of amazement on other people's faces when you say or do things they don't approve of. Don't go too far though or even your friends may start to avoid you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A falling out of some kind is likely today and it is unlikely to be very pretty. You have had your fill of being pushed around and now certain people need to learn that you can bite as well as bark.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you go it alone today you will do okay, but if you work with others you will accomplish ten times as much. Mars urges you to put petty differences aside and join with those who share your ideals.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you find yourself under pressure today you will most likely have brought it on yourself. You have taken on too many duties recently and now you are starting to pay the price. Cut back on your workload.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will find yourself drawn to a person who is strong and powerful and the planets indicate you are a good fit creatively. Get together to work on a project that you both find inspiring.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Something has stung you into action and you have every intention of making your mark. Your problem most of the time is that you are too sensitive but that won't be such an issue today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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			3		6			
6								1
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		8				2		7
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HWY: **6.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **9.7**L/100 KM▼

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE: **$12,995**‡

INCLUDES **$4,032** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

HWY: **6.3**L/100 KM
CITY: **8.9**L/100 KM▼

GLS model shown♦

2015 ACCENT 5-DOOR L

CASH PURCHASE PRICE: **$10,995**‡

INCLUDES **$4,232** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

HWY: **6.6**L/100 KM
CITY: **8.6**L/100 KM▼

Tech Auto model shown♦

2015 VELOSTER MANUAL

CASH PURCHASE PRICE: **$16,995**‡

INCLUDES **$2,832** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

HWY: **9.8**L/100 KM
CITY: **12.9**L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE: **$24,995**‡

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HWY: **7.4**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.4**L/100 KM▼

Sport 2.0T model shown♦

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